



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

Week Ending August 7, 2005

Issued weekly, April-November

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Good Week for Field Work: Hot weather persisted throughout the Keystone State with only trace amounts of rainfall reported. Temperatures were in the low to mid 90s during the day, cooling to the upper 60s at night. Overall, 6 days were suitable for field work, and principal farm activities included haymaking, baling straw, harvesting small grains, harvesting peaches, spreading fertilizer, and tending to livestock.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending August 7, 2005

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
29	47	24	0

Crops: Forty-nine percent of the soybean crop is now setting pods, on pace with last year but well ahead of the 5-year average. Soybean conditions declined slightly from a week ago as 66 percent of the crop is rated as either good or excellent. Corn is 93 percent silked, 18 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Thirty-six percent of the corn crop is in the dough stage, slightly behind last year but ahead of the 5-year average. Corn crop conditions tumbled from one week ago as 63 percent is rated as either good or excellent. The wheat harvest is now 96 percent complete, on pace with the 5-year average. Ninety-nine percent of oats are yellow, and 83 percent of the crop is ripe, both ahead of the historic average. The oat harvest is now 62 percent complete, a considerable jump from last week putting the harvest 18 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Oat conditions declined slightly from last week as 49 percent of the crop is rated as either good or excellent. Eight percent of potatoes are now harvested, well behind last year's pace. Sixty-seven percent of the 3rd cutting of alfalfa is now complete, well ahead of last year and the 5-year average. Fifty-nine percent of the 2nd cutting of timothy is now complete. The quality of hay made this week was 3 percent very poor, 6 percent poor, 25 percent fair, 40 percent good, and 26 percent excellent. This is a modest decline from last week.

The peach and apple crops continue to look excellent. Seventy-six

percent of peaches and 89 percent of apples are rated as either good or excellent. Fifty-three percent of the peach crop has now been harvested as well as 19 percent of the apple crop. Both figures are ahead of the historic pace.

Livestock: Pasture conditions were rated with the following: 30 percent very poor, 24 percent poor, 28 percent fair, 16 percent good, and 2 percent excellent. This is the worst shape pastures have been in all year up to this point.

U.S. As of July 31, 2005: Highlights: Extremely hot weather prevailed in the Corn Belt and Ohio Valley early in the week, with temperatures exceeding 100 degrees F in some areas. However, a cold front brought cooler weather and light to moderate rain to much of the region, including the drought-stressed areas of Illinois and Missouri. The same front later stalled over the southern and middle Atlantic Coast. Corn: Silking reached 92 percent complete, compared with 82 percent last year and 84 percent for the 5-year average. Twenty-seven percent of the crop was in the dough stage or beyond, 1 percentage point ahead of last year and 4 points ahead of normal. Denting, at 4 percent complete, was 3 points behind last year and 1 point behind the average. The crop was ahead of the normal silking pace in all States, except Colorado and Texas. Soybeans: Blooming advanced to 91 percent complete, 8 points ahead of last year and 9 points ahead of normal. Pod setting, at 55 percent complete, was 8 points ahead of last year and 11 points ahead of the 5-year average. Winter Wheat: Growers had harvested 90 percent of their acreage, 3 points ahead of last year and 1 point ahead of normal. Harvest was complete or nearly complete across the Corn Belt and central and southern Great Plains. Small Grains: Barley growers had also harvested 7 percent of their acreage, compared with 5 percent last year and 6 percent for the 5-year average. The oat harvest advanced to 51 percent complete, 14 points ahead of last year and 8 points ahead of normal. Harvest was at or ahead of normal in all States.

Weather Data For Week Ending August 7, 2005

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - August 7, 2005					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	91	56	75	4	0.00	0	11.19	-3.84	44	1,839	264	2,943
Franklin	92	57	74	4	0.36	2	14.58	-3.20	71	1,668	171	2,820
Meadville	91	56	74	7	0.29	2	14.30	-2.84	52	1,749	379	2,897
Mercer	92	59	75	6	0.51	2	15.79	-0.99	68	1,714	230	2,844
Springboro	89	50	72	2	0.14	2	15.09	0.01	56	1,593	17	2,681
Warren	91	54	74	5	0.09	1	11.55	-5.89	52	1,637	179	2,769
North Central												
Bradford Region	86	51	70	6	0.07	1	15.79	-1.90	57	1,285	219	2,344
Emporium	93	55	75	8	0.00	0	10.30	-7.73	54	1,632	439	2,765
Kane	89	51	69	6	0.00	0	12.21	-5.54	50	1,231	179	2,281
Laporte	87	56	73	4	0.43	3	15.67	-0.82	60	1,487	-12	2,576
Lock Haven	97	58	77	7	0.06	1	8.82	-7.32	45	1,868	280	3,051
Port Allegany	90	51	71	6	0.02	1	10.71	-6.13	47	1,412	230	2,475
Renovo	95	58	77	6	0.05	1	6.54	-9.60	43	1,846	258	3,028
Ridgway	89	54	71	5	0.05	1	13.13	-4.90	53	1,418	225	2,525
Stevenson Dam	94	58	76	10	0.00	0	10.05	-7.98	53	1,730	537	2,894
Towanda	94	56	75	6	0.15	1	10.45	-3.21	45	1,720	210	2,866
Wellsboro	87	55	72	6	0.20	2	15.58	1.78	47	1,385	258	2,447
Williamsport	94	57	77	6	0.18	2	14.59	-1.57	39	2,014	257	3,208
Northeast												
Hawley	94	54	74	6	0.04	1	12.89	-2.50	47	1,541	259	2,651
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	97	58	79	8	1.49	1	11.06	-4.10	46	2,026	355	3,220
Susquehanna	93	56	75	8	1.26	3	12.82	-3.68	54	1,641	409	2,768
West Central												
Butler	94	59	74	5	0.17	1	13.92	-2.75	51	1,760	207	2,954
New Castle	97	60	76	7	0.54	2	15.78	0.44	51	1,904	343	3,094
Slippery Rock	94	59	75	7	0.52	2	15.99	-0.27	52	1,764	357	2,968
Central												
Altoona/Blair	92	58	73	3	0.01	1	8.42	-6.59	31	1,715	43	2,888
DuBois	91	57	73	5	0.10	1	12.03	-4.70	63	1,605	156	2,760
Lewistown	95	63	78	5	0.00	0	12.42	-3.80	43	1,991	159	3,206
Middletown	95	68	80	5	0.01	1	13.61	-2.09	38	2,326	256	3,581
Prince Gallitzi	93	56	74	7	0.09	2	11.64	-7.56	54	1,534	203	2,660
Selinsgrove	94	60	77	6	0.06	1	13.53	-2.62	42	1,911	196	3,106
State College	92	62	77	6	0.01	1	8.41	-6.52	46	1,900	246	3,104
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	96	66	79	6	0.05	1	16.34	-0.19	46	2,065	169	3,294
Lehighon	95	62	77	4	0.00	0	16.04	-0.54	46	1,874	47	3,082
Matamoras	95	56	75	4	0.01	1	13.50	-3.71	51	1,639	-15	2,788
Tobyhanna	94	61	77	11	0.41	3	17.31	-0.68	67	1,830	705	3,026
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	95	65	79	8	0.27	2	9.96	-5.98	53	2,143	463	3,382
Derry	93	61	75	5	0.00	0	14.49	-1.96	48	1,787	212	2,983
Myersdale	89	55	71	0	0.02	1	13.09	-5.10	45	1,367	-166	2,470
Mount Pleasant	92	59	74	6	0.05	2	16.18	-2.19	58	1,744	347	2,943
Pittsburgh Intl	96	63	77	6	0.08	1	15.10	0.13	52	2,020	262	3,242
Rector	92	61	75	7	0.30	3	14.76	-3.61	69	1,737	340	2,933
Waynesburg	94	60	76	5	0.37	1	12.93	-3.43	45	1,806	181	3,014
South Central												
Biglerville	95	64	78	5	0.10	1	15.59	1.18	46	2,044	16	3,277
Everett	94	56	71	-1	0.00	0	8.08	-6.47	43	1,388	-259	2,517
Hanover	94	63	78	4	0.02	1	17.75	3.34	41	2,024	-4	3,248
Shippensburg	96	64	78	5	0.09	1	16.93	2.39	48	2,082	69	3,303
South Mountain	90	58	74	4	0.00	0	13.84	-1.17	40	1,785	120	3,018
York	95	64	78	4	0.02	1	10.70	-5.26	32	2,055	36	3,278
Southeast												
Green Lane	95	66	79	7	0.00	0	14.15	-2.08	40	2,046	240	3,282
Hamburg	96	65	79	8	0.02	1	14.79	-4.40	40	2,080	432	3,310
Hopewell	95	67	79	4	0.19	2	17.41	0.47	58	2,058	-67	3,296
Lancaster	93	68	79	5	0.02	1	17.94	1.17	40	2,104	204	3,338
Neshaminy Falls	95	65	79	5	0.00	0	18.22	-0.77	35	1,924	36	3,135
New Holland	94	67	80	6	0.01	1	14.17	-2.60	40	2,151	251	3,389
Philadelphia	96	69	83	7	0.00	0	14.30	-2.00	38	2,396	217	3,673
Philadelphia NE	96	68	82	6	0.00	0	18.23	1.93	38	2,339	160	3,605
Reading	96	68	80	7	0.02	1	14.64	-3.08	41	2,223	358	3,463
Valley Forge Na	98	64	80	4	0.00	0	15.88	-1.06	28	1,936	-189	3,142
Willow Grove	94	69	80	7	0.00	0	16.34	-2.65	33	2,164	276	3,416

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable

ADAMS, Judy A Behney (FSA) - Adams County has been hot, humid, and dry this week. Most daytime temperatures have hit 90-95 degrees with nighttime temps only getting to 70 degrees. Corn and soybeans continue to grow, and it looks like it will be a pretty good crop. Most corn is in tassel, and probably some silage will be cut near the end of August. Sweet corn seems to be plentiful in the county with good flavor. Mulch hay continues to be baled in big square bales for the mushroom growers. Another cutting of alfalfa has been harvested over the last week. Adams County could use some moisture to help all of the crops.

ADAMS, Tara Baugher (EXT) - Growing conditions for peaches have been near ideal, and fruit flavor and overall quality is excellent. Peaches, plums, and apricots continue to be harvested in the county. Apples are showing some color on the fruit.

BUCKS, Darrell Tribue (FSA) - Hot, humid conditions persist, although we have experienced scattered showers. Corn is progressing through the silk stage, and soybeans are starting to flower. We could use a slow soaking rain to assist grain development.

CAMBRIA, Dolly Little (FSA) - Conditions are very poor in the county. Moisture is badly needed. Pastures are brown, hay is not growing, and the corn is curling. Hopefully, conditions change with today's rainfall.

COLUMBIA, Dan McCarty (AgChoice) - Only spotty rain this past week. Very dry conditions in the area. Crops yields will be impacted.

CRAWFORD, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - Another good week for field and construction work. Only minor showers moved through the county this week, which did not interfere with farming activities.

FOREST, Thomas Tanner (FSA) - Please let it rain. The crops are starving for a soaking rain. The wheat is harvested with reported yields of 40 to 75 bushels per acre. Oats are being reported up to 60 bushels per acre. Hay yields are lower than last year, but crop quality is great. The corn crop is in tassel. It is curled and spiked. Potatoes are small with low yields.

FRANKLIN, Thomas Kerr (FSA) - Showers over the weekend were spotty and light. Hot temperatures during the week were the rule. It looks like an average corn crop. Some areas suffered early from lack of rain. The peach harvest is being pushed along with the hot weather. Quality is good, but yield is variable due to spring temperatures.

JUNIATA, Dave Stetler - Another triple "H" week, sucking the sap out of everything including me.

MONTGOMERY, Andrew Frankenfield (EXT) - Very dry conditions are raising concerns among many farmers. No rain for 10 days and extreme heat is showing its effect on crops. An excellent 3rd cutting of alfalfa was made this week; without some rain, however, the 4th will be short. Many areas of the county have received less than half an inch of rain in the past 3 weeks.

SCHUYLKILL, Terry Stehr (FSA) - Growers are hoping the hit or miss showers predicted for this week hit! Soybeans and corn are at a critical stage for yield.

SNYDER, William C Sheaffer - The weather this week was very hot and humid and took its toll on the crops and livestock. The corn and soybeans on the lighter soils are stressed. The small grain harvest is complete with the yield of oats being less than half of normal. The third cutting of hay is near complete. Baling of straw and haymaking were the main activities for the week.

SUSQUEHANNA, Willie Keeney (NRCS) - Haying season is done unless we get some significant rain soon. Everything is brown. Some corn is rolled up to the point of dying. Some area farmers are talking of harvesting corn early before they lose the whole crop.

WASHINGTON, Chuck Shrump (NRCS) - Rain is much needed for all crops. The second cutting of hay will be below the expected yield because of the lack of soaking rains after the first cutting.

WESTMORELAND, John Lohr (FSA) - Continued hot, dry conditions are now beginning to reduce corn, soybean, and hay yields countywide. Very few areas got any of the scattered showers this week. A few livestock producers are beginning to experience water supply shortages because of the prolonged dry period.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending August 7, 2005

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	9	5	5
Corn, silk	93	82	75
Corn, dough	36	44	32
Corn, dent	6	12	6
Wheat, harvested	96	91	96
Oats, turning yellow	99	97	92
Oats, ripe	83	73	70
Oats, harvested	62	42	44
Potatoes, harvested	8	15	9
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	67	29	36
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	59	44	39
Peaches, harvested	53	54	46
Apples, harvested	19	19	14

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending August 7, 2005

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	5	10	22	45	18
Oats	1	16	34	35	14
Soybeans	2	8	24	49	17
Quality of hay made	3	6	25	40	26
Pasture	30	24	28	16	2
Peaches	2	5	17	42	34
Apples	2	3	6	56	33

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